

3. The general protection of the forests and the rate of reproduction in areas cleared in the working of previous years was found to be highly satisfactory.

4. The number of fires compared with the year 1887-88 is the same, but owing to conditions being more favourable to the spread of fires, the area burnt is double that of the previous year.

5. The railway authorities did not indent for a fresh supply of wood during the year under report till very late in the year, as they had a large stock of wood on hand from the quantity taken over during the year 1887-88.

6. An application was received for a monopoly of the right to purchase babul bark for export to Europe for ten years, and an offer also was made from a local contractor to purchase a large quantity of bark during the year. The grant of a monopoly not being considered desirable by the Commissioner in Sind, the offer of the local contractor was accepted.

7. A monopoly for three years of right of exporting wood to Bombay and Katch Mandvi was sanctioned by the Commissioner in Sind with a view to stimulating trade in wood between Sind and the Presidency proper.

8. The financial results are not so satisfactory as they might have been owing to the falling of in the consumption of wood fuel by the railway.

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

9. The following table gives the area of the Sind Forests as it stood on 31st March 1888, and also the areas added thereto and deducted therefrom :—

Name of Division.	Area as it stood on 31st March 1888.				Area added during the year or gained by action of the river.				Area excluded during the year or lost by action of the river.				Area as it stood on 31st March 1889.			
	Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.	
	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.	Sqr. Miles.	Acres.
Sukkur ...	425	439	1	128	34	596	...	...	3	430	...	...	456	605	1	128
Naushahro ...	186	469	...	...	40	578	...	...	2	230	...	...	225	177	...	...
Hyderabad ...	172	73	...	...	3	380	...	...	6	221	...	...	169	232	...	...
Jerruck ...	108	440	...	...	13	495	...	...	...	140	...	...	122	164	...	...
Total...	893	150	1	128	93	129	...	...	12	381	...	...	973	538	1	128

The losses and gain of area, due to the changes in the course of the river, have been very extensive, but the former have involved newly formed lands, almost exclusively, and the loss of mature timber-bearing land has been very small. The chief loss has been in grazing grounds, the Hyderabad Division being the chief sufferer. The following figures show the loss and gain in each Division :—

Division.	Area lost.		Area gained.	
Sukkur.....	2,350	Acres	6,958	Acres.
Naushahro	1,510	"	850	"
Hyderabad	4,061	"	2,300	"
Jerruck	140	"	70	"

10. A sum of Rs. 3,277 was spent in keeping the eroding banks clear of trees to prevent their falling into the river and endangering navigation.

11. Of the material resulting from erosion fellings, Rs. 4,672-12-5 worth was disposed of during the year, and Rs. 2,263-12-0 worth still remained on hand at its close.

12. The dispute as to the right of the Forest Department to a large area of alluvial land in the Sukkur Division alluded to in para. 10 of last year's report has been satisfactorily settled.

13. A new departure was taken this year in the settlement of kacha disputes between the Forest Department and the Khairpur State. Hitherto all disputes have been settled under the Alluvion and Diluvion Rules published under Rules under "Special Local Acts." But in a dispute involving a very large area which had been thrown up, and the greater part of which was claimable by the Forest Department under the rules, along the bank where the boundary of the Khairpur State touches the Mohbatdero Forest, it was held by the Commissioner in Sind that the Alluvion and Diluvion Rules did not apply in the settlement of disputes with Foreign States, and the settlement was made by prolonging the boundary in a straight line about due west, the direction of the old boundary between the forest and the Khairpur State. This line is to be the basis of settlement of all further disputes if the land is again washed away and re-appears. It has the merit of preventing any further disputes if the Khairpur officials can be made to abide by it, if the curve of the next accretion favours them instead of the Forest Department, as it did on this occasion.

14. The areas notified under Section 19 of the Forest Act during the year under report are given below:—

Name of Forest.	Taluka.	Area in acres.
Garhi Yasin	Naushahro Abro.....	25,328
Dilmurad	} Thul.....	49
Mirpur		6,978
Karampur.....		6,060
Jangan		2,291
Katcha Alibhar	} Sujawal	3,000
Do. Suejani		3,410
Do. Kote Almo		2,335
Milkiat Sarcar	Jacobabad	20
		49,471

15. The following table gives the lands that have been selected for reservation, but have not yet been finally notified under Section 19 :—

Name of Forest.	Taluka.	Area in Acres.
Ali Ganj	Tatta	431 20
Hilaya		849 18
Shah Louko		312 10
Tatta		12,388 30
Garko		933 23
Chhachh		3,361 27
Khairwah	Jacobabad	56 30
Gokulpur		64 30
Tarai	Naushahro Abro.....	2,349 5
Chango Rahuja		1,749 35
Choi		3,132 20
Adamji		4,352 25
Phohyroi		473 4
Musti Khan		225 0
Nurketi	Hala.....	643 5
Drago	Ghotki.....	2 5

16. The regular demarcation of forests in Sind may be said to have been completed, but it may be found desirable to take up certain large areas of waste land near the banks of the river in the Hyderabad Collectorate, that can yield little or nothing to Government in their present condition, but which under proper management could be converted into babul forests to meet the growing demand for firewood due to the establishment in the district, of cotton and other mills worked by steam power, and also to meet the larger demand for babul firewood by the railway, which now takes this kind of wood in unrestricted proportion with other wood.

17. There was no expenditure incurred during the year under the head of forest demarcation and settlement.

CHAPTER II.

SURVEYS, WORKING PLANS, AND ANNUAL PLANS OF OPERATIONS.

18. The survey of the forests on a large scale giving all details of topography, nature of growth, &c., was continued.

Two surveyors were employed throughout the year with the following results in areas surveyed :—

Division.	Forest.	Area Surveyed.
Sukkur.....	Bhindi Dhareja	6,533 Acres.
"	Kadrapur	2,085 "
"	Deda	282 "
Jerruck.....	Penah	6,196 "
"	Khirsar	1,387 "
"	Susati	250 "